

REMARKS

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Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present case in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 6-10 have been canceled. Claims 1-5 are currently pending. Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been inserted. Support for the amendment of claim 1 can be found in the specification at least at page 2, line 27, and page 8, line 6.

Figure 7 was objected to for failing to include the legend "Prior Art". In response, Figure 7 has been amended to overcome this objection.

The drawings were objected to for not including reference sign 14a. In response, the specification has been amended to eliminate reference sign 14a. Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

The paragraph on page 1, lines 15-19 and the brief description of Figure 7 in the specification were objected to because it was alleged that Figure 7 did not show a conventional cable configuration, a trim conversion means 25 and the push pull cable. In response, the Applicants have amended the specification in order to overcome this objection. Applicants further point out that a trim conversion mechanism 25 is shown in Figure 7. Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 6-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Japan 8-156887. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

While not conceding the correctness of the Examiner's position, in the interest of advancing prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 6-10 rendering this rejection moot.

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 7. This sheet, which includes only Fig. 7, replaces the original sheet. In Fig. 7, the legend "Prior Art" has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kobayashi in view of Fujimoto (USPN 6,350,163) and Japan 6-156379. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 requires that “the push-pull converter is disposed in the personal watercraft directly under the steering handle or on the bow side of the steering handle”. The Examiner concedes that Kobayashi does not disclose a push pull converter disposed directly under the steering handle or on the bow side of the steering handle. However, the Examiner alleges that Fujimoto “discloses converter 36 as being directly under the steering handle.”

In reply, Applicants assert that Fujimoto does not disclose a “push-pull converter is disposed in the personal watercraft directly under the steering handle or on the bow side of the steering handle” and therefore assert that the combination of Kobayashi and Fujimoto fail to render the invention of claim 1 obvious. Applicants direct the Examiner’s attention to Figures 1-2, and 4a-b of Fujimoto where it is shown that the converter is disposed on the rear side of the steering handle, not “directly under the steering handle or on the bow side of the steering handle” as required by claim 1. Therefore, the combination of Kobayashi and Fujimoto fails to teach or suggest every element of claim 1.

Japan 6-156379 fails to cure the deficiencies of Kobayashi and Fujimoto. Japan 6-156379 fails to teach or suggest a “push-pull converter is disposed in the personal watercraft directly under the steering handle or on the bow side of the steering handle” as required by claim 1. Therefore, the combination of Kobayashi, Fujimoto, and Japan 6-156379 fails to render claim 1 obvious. As claims 2-5 are dependent on claim 1, they are also not obvious. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants further point out that claim 1 now requires “a push wire, the push wire long in a rectilinear form”. Applications respectfully assert that this feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by the combination of Kobayashi, Fujimoto, and Japan 6-156379. Applicants assert that the invention of claim 1 is not rendered obvious by the combination of Kobayashi, Fujimoto, and Japan 6-156379 for at least this additional reason.

Summary

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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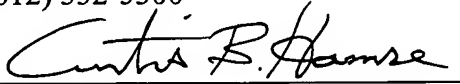

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FIG. 7
(PRIOR ART)

